

# **INFORMATION FOR THE PRESS**

## **United States Department of Agriculture**

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### **"DUCK STAMPS" FOR HUNTERS ALSO INTEREST COLLECTORS**

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"Duck Stamps", which migratory waterfowl hunters are required to purchase each year, are of increasing interest to stamp collectors. The stamps, which must be cancelled with the hunter's signature, raise money to supplement Government funds applied in acquiring, developing, maintaining and administering areas for migratory bird refuges. Each year the U. S. Biological Survey, which administers the "Duck Stamp" funds, has a distinctive design struck off.

Jay N. (Ding) Darling, famous cartoonist and conservationist, then head of the Survey, fittingly designed the first stamp for the 1934-5 hunting year. This stamp, done in blue, depicts a hen and drake mallard dropping to a landing in a windy marsh.

Frank W. Benson, whose work is represented in the Metropolitan Museum of Art, designed the second stamp which is a rose lake color. Three canvasback ducks are shown winging over a quiet marsh.

Richard E. Bishop, internationally famous for his wildlife etchings on glass and china, did the third stamp which is a brown black color. Three Canada geese, in flight, are etched against a cloud filled sky. The right leg of the center goose is banded.

The fourth stamp, for the 1937-8 hunting year, shows five scaups, or blue-bills, speeding over a windswept reach of marsh water. This stamp, light green in color, is the work of J. D. Knap, famous for his work with wildlife.

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The stamp for the 1938-9 hunting year has been designed by Roland Clark, another distinguished etcher of wildlife subjects. This stamp will depict a pin-tail drake and hen coming in to a landing.

Ducks and geese are shown in some flight phase in the five stamps so far struck off. The Biological Survey is considering a change in future series to show waterfowl on the water.

Philatelists have shown much interest in these issues of "Duck Stamps" done by famous wildlife artists which are flat plate printing, perforated eleven. The stamps for the current year may be purchased at any first or second class post office in the United States and at other specially designated points. Neither the philatelic division of the Post Office Department nor the U. S. Biological Survey handles the stamps.

Under the Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp Act all unsold stamps must be destroyed after June 30th of the hunting year for which issued.

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